(b) if so, the details thereof country-wise; and

(c) the trade reported so far with each country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) India has a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with Singapore which came into force from 1st August, 2005.

(c) Trade figure with Singapore for the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given as below:—

(Value in US$ millions)

| | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | | Percentage growth | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Exports | Imports | Exports | Imports | Exports | Imports |
| April-August | 1380 | 896 | 2,313 | 1,100 | 67.6 | 22.7 |
| August-March | 2621 | 1755 | 3,257 | 2,130 | 24.3 | 21.4 |
| April-March | 4001 | 2651 | 5,570 | 3,230 | 39.2 | 21.8 |

**Countries posing threat to Indian exports**

870. SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sri Lanka, Kenya, Vietnam, Indonesia and Guatemala have emerged as major threats to Indian exports;

(b) if so, the total quantum of exports of Indian tea, pepper and cardamom during the last three years, *vis-a-vis* above countries; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to boost plantation sector in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Quantum of exports of Indian tea, pepper and cardamom *vis-a-vis* that of competing countries during the last three years is given below:

**Tea**

(Figures in M. Kgs.)

| Countries | 2003 | 2004 | 2005* |
|---|---|---|---|
| India | 173.68 | 197.67 | 191.85 |
| Sri Lanka | 290.57 | 290.60 | 298.77 |
| Indonesia | 88.18 | 98.57 | 101.00 |
| China | 259.98 | 280.19 | 286.34 |
| Vietnam | 59.90 | 70.00 | 88.00 |
| Kenya | 269.27 | 333.80 | 349.74 |
| | | | (Quantity: MT) |
| **Pepper:** | | | |
| India | 17787 | 14049 | 16200 |
| Sri Lanka | 8240 | 5353 | 8000 |
| Vietnam | 74800 | 98494 | 91000 |
| Indonesia | 52500 | 37700 | 29000 |
| **Cardamom:** | | | |
| India | 682 | 757 | 650 |
| Guatemala | 19086 | 28569 | 28615 |

(c) A number of development schemes are being implemented by the Govt. of India through commodity Boards for enhancing production, productivity, quality and marketability of the plantation commodities *viz.* Coffee, Tea & Rubber and Spices under which financial and technical assistance is provided for over all development of this Sector. The Boards are also conducting promotional activities in foreign markets and lending promotional support to Indian exporters in their marketing efforts. These include participation in various fairs and exhibitions, field sampling at speciality stores and principal markets, media publicity, Buyer-Seller Meets exchange of delegations, etc. Spiecs Board has given assistance for setting up/upgradation of in-house laboratories of exporters for testing among other things, pesticide residues, aflatoxinm, physical, chemical and microbial contaminants and chemical composition of spices.